

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
LOS ALAMITOS QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION****TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro DVM, Chairman

Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman

Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member

Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member

Honorable Brenda Washington Davis, Member

Honorable Thomas Hudnut, Member

Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member

C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report of the Board of Stewards for the week of July 26, 2022, through July 31, 2022.

**Tuesday**

07/26/2022

**(1) TUESDAY HEARING**

The Board of Stewards met on this "off" racing day to hear a complaint filed by the Board against groom Edwin Barrera, who, after signing a testing agreement with the Board in January of 2022, tested positive for methamphetamine on July 17, 2022, when he came to renew his license. The hearing was conducted via Zoom. Present were the Board of Stewards, CHRB Investigators Vito Racowschi and Ryan Russell, and Groom Edwin Barrera, who was accompanied by translator Hector Rodriguez, an assistant trainer for Barrera's employer, Peter Miller. Mr. Barrera had been involved in a physical altercation at San Luis Rey Downs back in January and signed a testing agreement as part of the ruling issued at that time. He was tested on June 17<sup>th</sup>, when he renewed his license. He was questioned as to his use of Methamphetamine and stated that the night before his ill-fated test he had consumed alcohol and used the drug for the first and only time. Since the positive, he has abstained from using and started attending Winners Foundation meetings on his own volition. He stated that he attends three meetings per week and offered documentation as proof. We will take his case under advisement and issue a decision shortly.

**Wednesday**

07/27/2022

**(1) ENTRY DUTY**

Tom Ward will handle entries, scratches and panel duties this week. Entries for Saturday were scarce early on, but filled well in the late afternoon. A nine race card will be offered, with the Governor's Cup Futurity highlighting the evening. Ward will be writing minutes for the week.

**Thursday**

07/28/2022

**(1) SUNDAY CARD**

The entry process for Sunday was streamlined due to the fact that there were four overflow races left

from the Saturday offerings. This will be a California Bred weekend, as a total of eight homebred races will be run over the two nights. The panel met this morning, with no major concerns surfacing.

**Friday**  
07/29/2022

**(1) SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

There were no scratches for Sunday and only one weight change. The panel discussion was uneventful.

**Saturday**  
07/30/2022

**(1) EARLY DECLARATION**

6<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Corona Rose (Stakes) Refund of \$125.30

**(2) RULING**

**Ruling # 96**

GROOM EDWIN BARRERA IS SUSPENDED FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS (AUGUST 1, 2022 THROUGH AUGUST 30, 2022) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1489 (a)(8) (GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OR REFUSAL OF LICENSE- USE OF METHAMPHETAMINE) AND #1900 (GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION).

IN ADDITION, MR. BARRERA IS PLACED ON PROBATION FOR AS LONG AS HE HOLDS A LICENSE. DURING THE TERM OF SUSPENSION, ALL LICENSES AND LICENSE PRIVILEGES OF EDWIN BARRERA ARE SUSPENDED AND PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1528 (JURISDICTION OF STEWARDS TO SUSPEND OR FINE) MR. BARRERA IS DENIED ACCESS TO ALL PREMISES IN THIS JURISDICTION.

The foregoing ruling was issued to finalize the case against Mr. Barrera. (Ref. 7-26-2022). While we applaud Mr. Barrera's efforts to get his life back on track, the penalty issued is standard for a methamphetamine violation.

**(3) RULING**

**Ruling # 97**

JOCKEY LUIS A. VALENZUELA IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b)(8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RUNNING OF THE RACE) WHILE RIDING FREIGHTTRAIN STEW IN THE TENTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 24, 2022.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Valenzuela was observed violating the "crop" rule in the tenth race last Sunday and did not appear to defend his actions.

**(4) RIDER EXCUSED**

Juan Sanchez was excused from his mount in the first race as he suffered an injury during training hours which prevented him from riding. A replacement rider was named.

**(5) JOCKEY OBJECTION – NO CHANGE**

The objection sign was posted after the third race as Armando Viramontes (3<sup>rd</sup>, #3 Nuclear Core) lodged a claim of foul against the winner (#2 One Jenuine Cartel V, J. Nicasio), alleging interference from a float by the winner. After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to dismiss the claim of foul. Video showed that Nuclear Core was not being floated out, but rather was drifting out rather strongly on its own; to the point that the rider used the crop on the shoulder in an attempt to keep the horse on a straight path. Viramontes is on the board for a crop violation.

**(6) REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the ninth race (Governor's Cup Futurity – Grade I) as #2 Future Version flipped during the loading procedure and was declared on the recommendation of Racing Veterinarian Troncatty. The refund from the scratch amounted to \$16,178.73.

**(7) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	1,099	\$130,068.10
Off track	1,284	\$305,997.50
Out of state	N/A	\$1,055,228.53
Total	2,383	\$1,491,294.13

**Sunday**  
07/31/2022

**(1) CARD INTACT**

There were no early declarations from this evening's card.

**(2) RULING**

**Ruling # 98**

JOCKEY JUAN PABLO LEON IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1683 (MAXIMUM OVERWEIGHT) RESULTING IN A LATE RIDER CHANGE IN THE EIGHTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 24, 2022.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Leon had to be removed from a mount last weekend as he could not get within the seven pound overweight limit.

**(3) CROP VIOLATION RULINGS**

**Ruling # 99**

JOCKEY ARMANDO VIRAMONTES IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (7 & 8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN SUCCESSION, WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND AND MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RUNNING OF THE RACE) WHILE RIDING NUCLEAR CORE IN THE THIRD RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 30, 2022.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Viramontes violated the “crop” rule during the third race last evening. While we can accept that his mount was being difficult to handle, there is no question in the Stewards' minds that he went overboard in trying to correct his horse.

**Ruling # 100**

JOCKEY JAIRO RANGEL, WHO RODE REQUIRED FIRST IN THE NINTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 30, 2022, IS FINED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00)\* AND SUSPENDED FOR TEN (10) RACING DAYS (AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup>, 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 AND SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, AND 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2022) FOR A BLATANT VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (7 & 8) AND (c) (2) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN SUCCESSION, WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND; MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE; AND USING THE CROP IN THE OVERHAND POSITION).

ADDITIONALLY, DURING THE TERM OF SUSPENSION, JAIRO RANGEL WILL NOT BE ACCORDED THE PRIVILEGE OF RIDING IN DESIGNATED RACES OR TRIALS.

The preceding ruling was published after Mr. Rangel was observed committing a blatant violation of the “crop” rule during the ninth race last evening (Grade I \$280,000 Governor's Cup Futurity). His mount finished in second position. The rider struck his mount eleven times with the crop in the overhand position during the 350 yard race. Along with the excessive number of strikes, he also used the crop more than two times in succession on more than one occasion. While the penalty is severe, it is consistent with others issued for the same, or similar, violations. After the race, he was told by Clerk of Scales Natividad Estrada to be in our office this afternoon. His reply was that he would be in Mexico.

**(4) RIDERS EXCUSED**

Francisco Orduna-Rojas was excused from his lone mount this evening due to illness. Jairo Rangel had a representative call to say that the rider “had an emergency” and would not be in to see us or fulfill his commitment in the tenth race tonight. Replacement riders were named.

**(5) STEWARDS’ INQUIRY – TRAINER’S OBJECTION – NO CHANGE**

The inquiry sign was posted after the first race as the Stewards reviewed an incident entering the far turn involving the winner (#5 B D R Dragster – R. Ramirez) and the third place horse (#3 Big Mama Thornton – B. Harvey). The trainer of the third place horse, Robert Lucas, lodged a claim of foul for the same incident.

After speaking with the riders and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to make no change to the original placing. Video showed that Mr. Harvey did steady briefly from outside pressure. However, in the Stewards’ opinion, the incident did not cost him and his mount the opportunity for a better placing as they finished two and one half lengths behind the “Place” horse. Mr. Ramirez will view the video on Saturday.

**(6) RIDER EXCUSED**

Jockey Cesar Franco was excused from his final two mounts of the evening as he was feeling body sore from a spill following the seventh race on Saturday evening. Replacement riders were named.

**(7) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	750	\$110,834.80
Off track	1,020	\$283,210.30
Out of state	N/A	\$1,173,667.89
Total	1,770	\$1,567,712.99

**TRACK SAFETY REPORT**

The weekly inspection was conducted on August 2, 2022. One equine death was reported this week due to racing injuries. During this reporting period, 7 horses were added to the Veterinarian’s List as follows: 5 for soundness, 1 for injury, and 1 for EIPH. Seven horses previously on the Veterinarian’s List were examined and removed from the list. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

**SUMMARY**

	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat 07/30	Sun 07/31	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	D			0	0	0	5
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A			4	4	8	16
<b>Claims</b>	R			1	0	1	110
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K			0	0	0	15
<b>Inquiries</b>		D		1	1	2	37
<b>Refunds</b>		A		2	0	2	287
<b>Rulings</b>		Y		2	3	5	100
<b>Voided Claims</b>		S		0	0	0	18

Stewards’ Attendance: Stewards Tom Ward, James Dreyer, Rich Williams, and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson were in attendance during this reporting period.

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Tom Ward, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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Rich Williams, Steward

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Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward